

A  
DISCOVERY  
OF THE  
Island *FRIVOLA*:  
OR, THE  
FRIVOLOUS ISLAND.

Translated from the FRENCH,

now privately handed about at *Paris*, and said  
to be agreeable to the *English* Manuscripts  
concerning that Island, and its Inhabitants.

Wrote by Order of A — I A — n.

The SECOND EDITION.



L O N D O N;

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**A**DAMIRAL *Anson* hath lately published his curious Voyage round the World; but why hath not he obliged us with the Description of this Island, form'd by Nature for us as well as for him? Should the Reason be its universal Singularity? Shall an *Englishman* be afraid to speak the Truth, because of its Improbability? Then, a *Frenchman* will be more hardy. Perhaps indeed, he had another Reason, a political, for in his Manuscript I find this marginal Note, *I have made my whole Squadron swear, by the sacred Liberty of the British Nation, that they will be silent as to whatever may concern the Frivolous Island*; and I, on the contrary, do  
A swear

swear by *French* Submission and Dependency, to declare all. You shall see which, the Squadron or I, will best keep our Word.

How the Manuscript fell into my Hands, little regards the Public; and by revealing it, I should be false to him who has been so to the Admiral. The main Object, is a faithful Translation, and I undertake it.

Admiral *Anson*, after having weather'd *Cape Horn*, exposed to the Danger of the most tempestuous Sea, and the severest Climate, after seven Weeks repeated Storms which had seperated him from half his Squadron, damaged his Sails, Masts, and Riggings, busy in stopping the Leaks that sprung every Day, being now reduced to three Ships, all infected with the Scurvy, after having thrown more dead into the Sea, than he had Sick remaining on board; he had still more Men left than could be subsisted with his scanty Provisions, tho' under these Difficulties he still prosecuted the Design of taking from the *Spaniards* some of their best Places in *America*, or at least the Treasures in them.

Never was a Place of Refreshment more necessary. For this Purpose, he thought to make the Island of *Juan Fernandez*, lying between 34 and 35 S. Lat. but a strong N. W. Wind drove them back to 45, into that immense Space of the Ocean where no Land is supposed to be. Reduced to short Allowance of Bread and Water, in less than two Days they had nothing to expect but to perish for want of Necessaries. They sail'd by guess, when one of the Sailors cried out Land. Every Land is a Refuge to the Distressed. The discovered Land laid 16 Leagues S. W. This was soon run, and the Wind abating near the Place, they founded  
and



and enter'd a Bay to the N. of the Island; there they cast Anchor, landed with all Speed, and pitched Tents for the Sick. A Wood, which about the Bay, represented an Amphitheatre, had some Trees bearing a Fruit much like Peaches, a latter Fruit, it being Winter in that Country; they fell to eating it, but it was soon perceived to be without Nourishment, for tho' very beautiful and red, its Substance was hollow, or rather only the Image of a Substance, which gave small Relief, unless its quenching burning Thurst. The Trees were also of the Airy Nature of their Fruit; a Sailor having taken hold of one of these to help him to ascend a pretty high Slope, the Tree gave way, he was rolling down, but catch'd hold of another, which he likewise tore up. The Admiral made diligent Search both for Water and more solid Food, and taking with him ten of the healthiest of his Men, he marches into the Land at their Head. The first Inhabitants they met with, were Tygers; these fierce Animals, before they could be aware of them, fell upon this small Body, but their Claws and Teeth being nothing but flexible Cartilages, more ornamental than offensive, only excited their Laughter. After having marched about four Hours across the Forest, our Heroes came into a Plain cover'd with Shrubs, bearing both Flowers and Fruits; this Sight threw them into a Doubt, whether it was really Winter; but their Doubt was soon clear'd, for as the Fruits found round the Bay afforded little Nourishment, these mere chymical Efflorescences were not at all eatable. This vegetable Slime, exhausted during the Summer by real Productions, real according to the Country, this Slime containing, no doubt, a Quantity of Salts, and metallic Parts, brings forth

in Winter such *Trees of Diana and Mars, Bunches of Grapes*, and other Fruits, which are form'd in our Laboratories from Mercury, Sal Armonial, Metals and Spirits of Wine. The Birds attempting to peck these deceitful Vegetables were bauked, and flutter'd, seeming to resent this Quackery of Nature; they were themselves Impostors too, for most of them under the Apparent Bulk of a Pheasant, had the shrill Throat of a Canary Bird, and to hear the Canary Birds of the Islands, one ought to have better Tympanums than fall to the Share of *European Ears*.

Proceeding in the Plain they saw Horses tied to Trees, Men playing on divers Instruments, and Women, who with Bellows in their Hands, blow'd the Dust before them. This was their Way of preparing the Land, which was as light as Hair-Powder; the Wind forced from the Bellows, traced the Furrows, and Men sow'd on this Dust. At the Sight of the Strangers, all fled, nothing but the Horses remain'd; a necessary Help, if they had been able to carry their Men. They bent under them. They were obliged to follow these timorous Husbandmen a Foot; their Habitations were near, and the Alarm being spread there, they appear'd in great Numbers, arm'd with Bows and Scythes to hinder their Approach. The Admiral's Prudence never slumber'd; it was judg'd more convenient to soften than conquer the Enemy. He halted at Arrow-Shot, and order'd his Men to lay down their Arms, stretching out their Hands to the Enemy. The Voice of Nature is understood every where. The Women in the second Rank quitted it, and made up to our Travellers always dancing. Hunger is but a sorry Dancer, yet was it necessary to indulge  
the



the merry Humour of these Dancers, who led them up to their Husbands all the Way in Cadence.

They enter'd their Habitations, and having by Signs explained their Wants, they had Bread and Meat served up. Their Inviters were astonished to see them devour what would have sufficed for thirty Island-men, when they themselves were still more, to feel their Appetite not satiated. Their Bread was like our Wafers, and their Meat of a very loose Texture, almost without Solidity. A Sheep as large as ours weigh'd but ten Pounds. The most real Substance was Water; they had no Expectation of any Wine; but some was offered them: This Wine was a frothy Liquor, or, to speak properly, mere Froth, causing only an agreeable Illusion. So many Phœnomena puzzled our Admiral; but this was not a Time to exert his physical Skill; the Business was how to recover Strength. The Quantity made up for the Quality of the Meats, and all agreed they had really eaten something.

The Admiral did not wait a perfect Digestion before he thought of his Brethren (this is an Expression excusable only from the Pulpit, though it is indeed his own). Whilst he was contriving how to make himself intelligible to the Islanders, he was interrupted by two Men arm'd, and not of the most obliging Aspect; these Men were two Excise or Tax-men, who struck People with an Awe of the Sovereign; they were conveying away one of the Inhabitants, found with a Load on his Shoulders: A young Woman in Tears followed him; she deplor'd the Loss of her Husband, and the Bed she laid on. These Officers thought they did enough for her by giving her back a bead Necklace; this dried up her  
Tears

Tears, and she fell to singing. This odd Contrast of Passion over, the Admiral went on with Signs as he had began ; he bethought himself of setting eleven Stones on a Line, representing thereby himself and his Attendants ; and, after that, he added three hundred more, denoting the Number of Men in his Squadron, pointing to the Side of the Island. They took his Meaning ; but how to find out in this small Plantation sufficient Provisions ? An old Man took him by the Hand, led him to a Point of View, whence he discovered a maritime Town to him as big as *London* : He directly took the Road to it, and soon reached it. At the Gates of this City was a numerous Guard, who directly stopped them.

Now, they have a Law in the Capital of the *Frivolous Island*, not to admit any Stranger without Proof given, on the Governor's own Examination, of some useful Qualifications. His Excellency made his Appearance, surrounded by a Troop of Pantomimes, who kept him in Humour with the Toil of his Ministry.

*Who can you be ?* said he, casting on them a most compassionate Eye. The Admiral was greatly surprized to hear the Interrogatory put to him in *French*, a Language he understood well. " We are, replied he, Subjects of the greatest " Monarch in *Europe*." *Your Europe must then be a poor Country, said the Governor : This is not the first Time she hath sent us Men dressed only Knee deep, and meanly too. By the Light, if my People were found in this Pickle, I should soon be degraded ! But, pray, what is your Errand here ?* With a Smile ; I am come into your Port to repair our Ships, and get Refreshments. But what are your Qualifications and Talents, to pretend Ad-

mittance



mittance into the *City of Wit* ? I have on board said the Admiral, Shipwrights who can make a Ship's Motion as quick again as usual, by new invented Models. Some Miners, who can come at the most remote Treasures in the Bosom of the Earth—The Laugh was still stronger. Surgeons, who can pry into and clearly discover the internal Parts of the human Body as you do the Surface. This caused so confused a Peal of Laughter, that there was no hearing one another speak.

The Admiral coming to himself a little, thought he might bring the Laughers to his Side, by setting forth some superior and more scientific Talents. He had on board, he said, some Men of Learning, who had quitted the delightful Pleasures of *London*, to go abroad and determine the Figure of the Earth, and find out the Longitude. “ O  
 “ wise and learned Nation, replied he. — I have  
 “ also on board my Ships, Geographers, who know  
 “ the whole Earth as well as you do your Town.  
 “ Natural Philosophers, acquainted with all the  
 “ Secrets of Nature. Mathematicians, able to  
 “ measure, weigh, number the whole Creation.  
 “ And I myself, who am now speaking to you,  
 “ can, without stirring one Step, take, by Tri-  
 “ gonometry, the Height of the Tower I see  
 “ two Miles off.” Tired with laughing, Contempt succeeded ; the Governor turned his Back upon them, and they were going to shut the Bar, when one in the Crowd said, in broken *English*, My Lord, away with all your boasted great Talents, they will never be able to open you a small Wicket here. *I have had more Sense, have been well received here, and sung myself into a plentiful Fortune.* Sublime Governor! and most shining Genius! give me Leave, said the Admiral

miral, to observe to you, that our Nation excels likewise in Dancing, Music, and Cookery ! The Governor then turn'd back again, and a loud Approbation, by clapping, ensued. Mr. *Richard Walter*, Chaplain of the *Centurion*, pull'd out a *German Flute*, an Instrument unknown to the *Frivolites*, play'd on it, and all our Sailors, the Admiral himself not excepted, went dancing a Horn Pipe, which for a whole Month, put out of Countenance all the fashionable Dances. Then indeed, had there been one Hundred Gates they all had been thrown open to our jolly Band. Nevertheless those who kept the Bar demurred some Minutes, telling them however, they always search'd Strangers for contraband Goods ; they did, and found in the Admiral's Pocket a Case of Mathematical Instruments, quite different from those made in the Island, and which was therefore stopp'd till further Orders.

The Governor however, began to move forwards, and our *English* follow'd ; they little expected to have met in their Way, Equipages in the Taste of *Paris* and *London*, rolling along the Streets. Their March stopp'd at an immense Palace, it was that of the Emperor. You must cross twelve large Courts before you come up to his Apartments, and these Courts are lined with Buildings and Shops ; there, besides the Officers of the Monarch, are lodged ten celebrated Persons of all the Trades judged the most necessary to the State — Embroiderers, Cabinet-Makers, Small-Workers, Perfumers, New Year's Gifts-makers, Glass-men, Composers of figur'd Desarts, the Inventors and Controlers of Modes, Coach and Sedan Painters, Dancing-Masters, and Authors of Romances, who are bound in Duty and by Agreement to provide one every Week. They



They had now reach'd the Emperor's Apartment. His All-Elegance (that is the Title given him) with the Assistance of his Ministers, had under their weighty Consideration, a Proposal which held the Town in Suspence. The Case was, whether the Fan-makers should be entitled to Lodgings at Court? This admitted of grave and sharp Debates; but what still appeared more important at that Crisis, was the Introduction of these Strangers. Fresh Proofs must be made in the Presence of the Council, of the Qualifications reported by the Governor. *Richard Walter* with his Flute, and the Dancers with their Horn Pipes strove to out-do themselves. But the Talent of Cookery advanced by the Admiral, was without any Proof; he produced, with the Help of his Cook, who fortunately made one of the Ten, the very Quintessence of a Pudding: The Monarch and his Ministers eat of it, and directly an Order was sign'd, that the Haven should be open'd to the little Fleet, and in Consequence they actually entered it the next Day. It was high Time for the poor famish'd Sick, ten of whom had died in the Night thro' Want and Sicknefs.

There are few People more ready to do Service than the *Frivolites* of the Metropolis, so they are but well paid for it. They immediately brought these Strangers Refreshments of all kinds; but when the Value was to be paid, they went from the Bargain. The *Frivolites* knew nothing of Gold or Silver; at the Sight of Shillings and Guineas offered by the *English* for their Provisions, they put them all up again. Upon this the Admiral perceived he was under the Necessity of proceeding by way of Barter. Merchants Ships would have had less Trouble, yet, tho' Men of War,

he remembered he had *on board* some few Pieces of Lace and Ribbons ; he got upon a kind of Stage, and began to shew his Ribbons. He saw the Eyes of the Multitude sparkle at this Object, but in order to try how the Ribbons would turn out, he cut off one Yard. Up came a Baker, who threw about 20 *lb.* of Bread on the Stage ; the Butchers, Pastry-Cooks, Wine Merchants, and Distillers, all in their Turns ; for the Value of ten or twelve Pieces of these Goods, stock'd the Fleet with Provisions for one Day. Thus the Admiral found out, that his whole Parcel of Ribbons might, at that Rate, supply his Men with the Necessaries of Life for a Month.

About Noon he was told, the Emperor would that Day pay his Squadron a Visit ; and recollecting the Governor's heavy Censures for the bad Condition of their Cloaths, he order'd his Equipage to dress in the very best and nicest Manner ; then, they put themselves under Arms, and in two Ranks, reaching down quite to the *Centurion*. The Emperor look'd out for the Admiral, and had much ado to know him again, having only seen him the Evening before in a Neglige' so well suited to a Ship-board, but so ill to a Court. He reached his hand up to the Admiral's Hair, and felt the Curl with a singular Attention, and was convinced that those form'd in the Island wanted both their Graces and Symmetry : But much greater was the Surprize, when on the Empress's feeling the Curls about the Head of the Captain of the *Gloucester*, she did it so eagerly and roughly, that she pull'd off what, at first, she thought his Skin, but in Fact only poor *Mitchel's* Wig. These Trifles caus'd some Events, which we shall have Occasion to mention hereafter.

The



The Emperor continued his Walk. He found the Ships of a monstrous Size, and shocking to behold! By Way of Comparison, he pointed to his Ships that stood facing these in the same Port, consisting of a kind of Sloops, of most elegant Fabrick; the Sterns were inlaid with Mother of Pearl, their Sails, Purple, and Cables, Silk. He went on board the *Centurion*. The *Frivolites* had never in their Lives seen Muskets, Cannons, Bombs, or Bullets; so cast only a Glance on them without asking one single Question. This was far from displeasing the Admiral, who not knowing how long he might keep in their Favour, was glad if any Thing turn'd out wrong, to have it in his Power to awe these Islanders by the Novalty and Thunder of his Ordinance. Yet was he willing to feed their Curiosity; he made them observe the make and working of the Ships, the Pumps and Captanes. The Monarch and all his Court fell into an Unison of gaping. At last, coming to the Compass, he said the Country we sail'd from is above 6000 Leagues from hence, and that trembling Iron-Needle hath been our only Guide hither; then he offer'd to explain the Relations that Needle had with the Poles. He was speaking to the Deaf, but not to the Blind; for the Eyes of the Empress had just met a Box of Ribbons left open by Chance, she gladly snatch'd up one Piece, and the Admiral the Opportunity of making his Court, by delivering up the whole Stock. The Emperor distributed some few Pieces, and reserv'd to himself the Bulk, asking if there was no more. More I had, replied the Admiral, but exchange'd them this Morning for Victuals, being the only Currency your Dealers would have to do with. *But they shall not long*

enjoy it I can tell you, *tho' you may be very easy*; and directly order'd the High Treasurer to pay him down 10000 Agatines, a sufficient Sum for a Month's Provision. The next Day was issued a Proclamation from the King, enjoyning all such Traders as had truck'd for Ribbons, to bring them forth to the Office of Modes; and the Office to make an exact Analysis of the said Ribbons, in order to set up a Manufacture of them.

The Admiral now, easy as to Provisions, was far from being so in regard to the Repairs of his Fleet; proper Timber was wanting. What he had seen in the Island was too soft, and too brittle for that Use. He made some farther Enquiry; and was inform'd of a Forest about ten Leagues off, the only one producing, by the Nature of its Soil, Wood hard and durable. He was setting out to go and view it, when an Order came, that he should immediately repair to, and curl the Court. How to comply, was critical: But he bethought himself of Proxies, his three Valets de Chambre, Barbers, who had acquired the Grand-Gout at *Paris*, *James Quick*, *Thomas Ball*, and *George Shaver*; the Admiral mentions their Names, because of the noble Parts they were to act. He ordered Colonel *Crachrode*, Head of the Land Forces, and two Captains, *Mitchel* and *Saunders*, to attend him. You may well suppose, neither he nor they thought to be put to these manual Operations. But much mistaken they were; the Emperor presents his Head to the Admiral; the Empress, and two Princes, the Hopes of the Throne, laid hold on the Colonel and the two Captains: The Admiral desired to be excused as well as they, owning they were indeed versed in the Theory, but very deficient in the



the Practice of that Art. All this while stood an arch Courtier giggling, and the Admiral had conceiv'd an Antipathy to him, even before he perceived him sneering. The Valets, in short, were the real Actors. They were going on in their Work, when the Monarch bolts out, Pray what Part of *Europe* are you of, Admiral? Of the very noblest, answered he. So, you are a *Frenchman* then, added the sagacious Courtier. The Admiral could by no Means relish this Consequence, but declining his *English* Name, offer'd, to maintain his Proposition; so did the Courtier, his Consequence. The Dispute grew warm, and the Curling ended so gloriously, that the three Artists had Apartments allotted them in the twelfth Court of the Palace. They were the Heroes of the Day. As to their Masters, they were treated with great Coldness, and almost Contempt. The Admiral returning on board, was forced to chew the Cud of this odd Adventure. The cold Reception he had met with, the Courtier's stickling so warmly for *France*, the *French* Tongue spread all over the Court — Were there any *French* in the Island? *French*, how should they have come thither without any Scent of it in *Europe*? But had there been some, how could they have flatter'd themselves to live upon good Terms with them? Suspense and Doubt are cruel Things; he therefore set out on a Visit to the Courtier, though he had no great Reason to be much pleased with him, sure that if any existed there, he must infallibly be one of the Number.

The Courtier, after having all this while hugg'd himself to have kept him thus in the Dark, rent off the Veil; "I was at *Paris*, said he, in 1719. when  
 " every

every body exchanged their Gold for Paper.  
 My want of Gold threw me out of the Fashion;  
 but by my Industry to procure Paper for those  
 who were fond of it, I came by good Sums  
 of that Metal. I was then young, and in  
 the very Center of that expensive and voluptu-  
 ous Capital; dispers'd as soon as I had heap'd;  
 so nothing was left me but my Passions; and  
 soon was convinced, losing my Gold, I lost all  
 my Merit; no Place so likely as *Peru* for more.  
 My Designs I communicated to some of my  
 Friends, who approv'd, and adopt'd it for  
 themselves: Our Numbers insensibly grew  
 large; we embark'd at *Rochel* for *Porto Bello*,  
 in all 60. Our Navigation proved very happy  
 to the Latitude of the *Antilles*, but a contrary  
 Wind stubborn and continual, drove us on  
 the Coast of *Brazil*: So no more Thoughts  
 of *Porto Bello*.

The Captain, making the best of our Dis-  
 appointment, form'd the Design of sailing to  
*Lima*, where he hoped to dispose of his Goods  
 with Advantage. We went round *America*,  
 pass'd the Streights of *Le Maire*; it was after  
 we got thro', that a Combination of all the  
 Winds threaten'd usevery Moment with Death;  
 Storms quelling only to frown with more Fury,  
 toss'd us to and fro, from one Abyss to ano-  
 ther, for a considerable Time.

The 20th Day, we became perswaded that  
 there was no Land in the Parallel of Latitude  
 we sail'd in; and when, through so many Hor-  
 rors, we landed on an unknown World, we  
 began to suspect of our Conjecture. What,  
 said we, Is not this the *Peru* sought after? A  
 Land it is that must suffice us. The first Ob-  
 ject



"ject that offer'd was a lofty Rock; we climb  
 "up, to have a View of the Country to which  
 "our Fates had brought us: Scarce had we  
 "reached the Top, when the Ship we saw at the  
 "Foot, drove upon its Anchors, and a Gust of  
 "Wind for ever hid it from our Eyes, together  
 "with her Captain and Crew. They met an End  
 "of their Misfortunes in the Bosom of the mer-  
 "ciless Ocean. Left to wander from Village to  
 "Village, with no other Hopes but of Life,  
 "we at length turn'd our Thoughts towards the  
 "Capital; great Cities are most fruitful in Re-  
 "sources. We were 200 Leagues from it: What  
 "Toils before we could arrive there? However,  
 "we were soon comforted.

"The *Frioolites* were convinced we might be  
 "of great Service: Happening to be just then  
 "in a Disposition of Mind to shake off their Bar-  
 "barity. They had as yet no such Things as  
 "large Sconces, Sophas, Toys, and the very  
 "Faces of their Women were Strangers to Paint:  
 "But they were indeed introducing a Multiplicity  
 "of Lights, larger Elbow Chairs, and cutting  
 "Glass, Diamond-fashion, and the Sex, when the  
 "thought of acting, would drink a kind of  
 "Elixir, which, quickening the Circulation of  
 "the Blood, much heighten'd their Colour. The  
 "Finesses of Cookery, Ornaments of the Table,  
 "the Prestiges of Drets, the Elegancies of House-  
 "Furniture, the Variety of fine Equipages, and  
 "Embroidery, all were only in rough Draught;  
 "Modes were unknown: But a Maxim it was,  
 "that no Woman of Rank could be indulged in  
 "the Wear of the same Gown for a whole Sea-  
 "son; nor in general, to wear, like the same  
 "Nose, still the same Form of their Habits.

"The

“ The Morals began to affect a Change of  
 “ the rude and natural : Airs, Maniere’s, the  
 “ Compliments, the Bon Ton, the Vapours, the  
 “ Divine Suppers, the Expences of Fancy, Lip-  
 “ Friendships, the Amours of a Day, all these  
 “ Flowers of Urbanity were still in the Bud,  
 “ waiting only for a genial Ray of the Sun to  
 “ Blossom. Husbands had not yet perceived how  
 “ ridiculous it is to love their Wives, but had  
 “ indeed felt it was a hard Task. Nor the Wives  
 “ yet given up all domestic Care, to be wholly  
 “ devoted to their Toilet ; but a certain Instinct  
 “ taught them they were born to act a noble and  
 “ brilliant Part ! It was rare to see Nobles cou-  
 “ rageous enough to spend beyond their Income,  
 “ but for some Years past, not one of them fails.  
 “ In short, the *Friivolites* were then without Gout,  
 “ or properly had only a Relish for the Gout.

“ But yet, my Lord, for all this happy natu-  
 “ ral Disposition, a most arduous Task it is to  
 “ form a Nation !” *At these Words, my Lord put*  
*on a serious Frown, and began to speak of Laws,*  
*Vertues, Sciences, and the Arts tending to compleat*  
*that grand Object.* “ What do you mean, the  
 “ *Frenchman* went on, that we should dress our  
 “ capital City in a Night Cap. The whole Train  
 “ of Arts that brighten the Eye, embellish the  
 “ Passions, they have borrow’d from us, we have  
 “ polish’d their Vices, and they have adopted  
 “ our Language, which hath given Brilliancy to  
 “ their Wit. It was happy for us, that we had  
 “ at our Departure from *France*, provided a  
 “ Pocket-Library (for what’s to be done for us a  
 “ board a Ship) all Books of Taste, delicious  
 “ Romances, Comedies sparkling with Wit, Ga-  
 “ lant Tragedies, Operas of melted Love ; you  
 “ cannot



“ cannot imagine with what Sagacity they have  
 “ imitated the Graces ; we can now reckon up  
 “ about 600 Poets, and 2000 Writers of Ro-  
 “ mances. Judge of it yourself, take and read this  
 “ Comedy, composed by a Nobleman at Court,  
 “ and this other, a Romance, whose Father is a  
 “ Magistrate.

“ For the rest ; the Colony hath sow'd to reap.  
 “ We have all been distinguished in the State ;  
 “ myself especially, on whose very Account a  
 “ new Office under the Crown hath been created.  
 “ The Person you converse with is the *Grand*  
 “ *Controller of the Modes*. This Place boasts  
 “ many Flowers, but it hath also its Nettles ; a  
 “ a Mode is Stale with these People, in about a  
 “ Fortnight. One ought to be something more  
 “ than a *Frenchman*, to keep Pace with them ;  
 “ had good Fortune but preserved our poor Ship.  
 “ It was loaded with all that is superfluous in  
 “ *France*, and necessary here. How rich in Pat-  
 “ terns for this City ! That Ribbon which has  
 “ gain'd you so much Honour, would have long  
 “ ago made a Figure there : All can't be done at  
 “ once ; only Ages can emulate *Paris*, they  
 “ must needs, since we left it, have carried  
 “ Things to yet greater Perfection. I have taken  
 “ Notice, as well as all the World, of a new  
 “ Taste in the *Curling* you have brought. Pray  
 “ now, my Lord, weigh what I say attentively,  
 “ either it is your Design to settle in this Country,  
 “ or it is not ? If it is not, what need you court  
 “ Reputation, by exposing your new-fashion'd  
 “ Things ? And if it is, I forbid you for the  
 “ Future, not to produce any without my Consent ;  
 “ you have them all from *France* ; come, be  
 “ frank, and own it, and pay her due Homage ;  
 “ otherwise

“ otherwise Woe be to you. Our Interest is prodigious.

*To shew I have no Intention to settle here, replied the Admiral, I offer to carry you back to your Country, which you certainly long to see again.* We have felt the Want of it, that's true, added the Grand Controller; and were afraid for a long while, not to be able to make shift with the Food of this Island; and our Apprehensions were much encreas'd, when after some Years, we became sensible “ that our Flesh rarefied and subtilized, and “ the *Substance* of our Bodies wasted. At these “ Words he cut a *Gargouillade* (a kind of Carper) and kick'd down a Glass Lustre. Can “ you believe, that I now weigh no more than “ fifty Pounds? The Children we got, the first “ Years of our Transmigration, we did not dare “ to touch; those pretty Machines had brought “ with them into the World, Springs most fine “ and brittle, too nice indeed to bear handling “ by *European* Strength, of which we had still “ some Remains. But insensibly, certain Proportions have been contrived and kept between “ our Constitutions and the Nature of the Island “ and we live happy with a People whose Imagin “ nation is call'd Rose-colour.”

The Admiral was of a Wooden-Hue, he had penetrated most deeply into the Forest; for there he went, and return'd satisfied. After all; nothing could be thought of, till an express Order from the Sovereign was obtained: He beg'd an Audience, but was refused; he might by Chance have obtained it by the Grand Controller's Interest, but must first have contracted an intimate Friendship and Confidence with him. He applied to other Favories; but not a Soul among them dur



lay his Petition at the Foot of the Throne. *When Favour fails, Recourse must be had to ordinary Means.* He presented himself, with a Petition in his Hand, to the Prime Minister: Now all Petitions suspected of giving any, the least Uneasiness to the Sovereign, were surely suppressed; this was the Fate of his; he was taken hold of by a Lord, a kind of Philosopher, whose way of thinking was too singular to make any Thing of it at Court, where he was only tolerated on Account of his high Birth; this Lord began to question him on the Situation, Government, Naval Strength, and Commerce of *England*. The Admiral was astonish'd at his serious Inquiries; being the first of that kind ever before made to him there; proper Answers return'd, he open'd to him the Cause of his Uneasiness. *What are you blind at Noon Day,* replied the Interrogator, *pray have not you recommended to the Emperor — three important Personages, principally one Quick, who dresses his Head? How far would you run for what you have at Hand; and so he left him.*

I doubt not, but the *English* Spirit must have been at first shock'd, on the proposing these meaner Methods; but on second Thoughts, he made a heroico philosophical Reflection, *That no Means are base, that promote our Country's Good.* With this View, he goes and applies to *Quick*, his Valet, whom he address'd in his habitual majestic Tone; *Quick* replied as one then Independent; the Admiral soften'd his Voice, and accompanied his Demand with the Present of a Gold Box. *Quick* promised to serve him, and kept his Word; In three Days he brings him an Order sign'd. But Difficulties arise when least dream'd of; was the Ax offer'd to be laid to any

Tree? The Forest - Keeper pointed to another unfit for the Use. The Admiral insisted on the Letter of his Order ; the Keeper, on the Spirit, 2000 Agatines ; however brought them to agree ; and so every Thing was preparing for refitting the Fleet. After which, the Admiral bestow'd his leisure Hours in Speculations on the *Frivolous Island*.

It is situated in 45 D. 8 M. of S. Lat. and 228:17 Long. (first Merid. Teneri) very high above the Sea, and shelter'd from the Wind by high Mountains, that almost surround it. The Air by its Softness prompts to Pleasure, and by its Subtilty gives the Blood a great deal of Play. The Diameter is about 600 Leagues. To the W. it hath three great Nations, separated from it by an Arm of the Sea, these all taken together make a World. The Admiral only speaks of the Island and Cursorily too ; he wanted Time for deeper Enquiries.

I perceiv'd, said he, in this Place, Phænomena unknown any where else : The Soil as light as Meal-Flour, the Trees without Solidity, the Fruits more apt to deceive the Palate, than feed the Body ; some others of a chymical Nature labour'd in a Crucible, can only please the Sight ; Wine rob'd of it's Spirits ; common Meat of little Substance, and all Animals in general, having the Bulk, not the Weight, or Strength proportional. Every where, rather the Image of Nature, than Nature herself. All this, tho' puzzling, was owing to some Cause. You must know the *English* Admirals are pretty odd People ; I allow, as we all assert it, that they want our Merit at the Head of a Fleet ; but their Vanity shews itself in Physics, Geometry, Astronomy, &c. One takes it



it into his Head; To weigh the Air, make an Analysis of different Earths, examine its Sulphurs, Salts, Oils, and the Juices which give being to the Vegetables, whose Relation with the Animals they feed, he would also consider; 'tis his *English* Way, he must be fathoming. Well! Let him do it alone for me; while we view his hasty Draught of the Capital.

The City of *Wit* is as large as *London*: They reckon in it, one Million of Inhabitants; but might contain two, were it not broken by numberless Gardens, and vast Buildings; Where they don't propagate, nor indeed work: The Families inhabiting them, having no other Task than to repeat Prayers for those that do work.

It is cross'd by a River: They have built Magazines of Luxury on its Bridges, rather than leave the Eye a full Scope on the Length of its fine Canal.

Certainly, said the Admiral, before the Landing of the *French*, the *Frivolites*, in some Age or other, must have made Attempts to shake off their barbarous Customs; but then the great Men who labour'd for it, did not hit the general *Tone* of the Nation. They planted Avenues, rais'd triumphal Arches, began Kays, provided publick Conduits, erected Edifices to Virtue and the Sciences; they could not do all, and what was omitted, is still left undone.

Among the many Monuments of their Architecture, One is still subsisting, whose Composition, Symmetry, Boldness, and the Grandeur of its Parts, strikes with Admiration! I mean, a Palace, which, if only pretty, the *Frivolites* would gaze at every Day with fresh Delight; but, as it is large and beautiful, therefore they mask it; and, however,

however, design'd for the Mansion-house of their Sovereign, it is not yet roofed in. The other Remains of that too serious Age ; Paintings, Statues, Poems, and Pieces of Eloquence, imitating Nature too closely to please long, the Fathers, seduced by their Novelty, may perhaps have admired these Master-pieces ; but their Sons can shew you Toys of all Kinds, choice Cabinets of Curiosities, and astonishing Equipages.

Few Towns in the World exhibit such pretty Gimcracks ; their the Artists have made vast Improvements by the Lessons of the *French* Colony, surprizing Ones ! over doing every thing, in order to please the Nation, exhausting their Spirits in precious Trifles, in a thousand Nick-nacks, and as many nothings, that have but a Wiff of Duration. The Manufactures furnish Cobweb-stuffs figur'd fantastically ; should in short a Workman mind only what is solid and good, he must starve in course.

Not many Cities can vie with this, in the Pretiness of their liberal Arts. Here, Painting scorns Boldness and Expression, preferring a gaudy Colouring ; and is most charming, when her sweet little Touches are delicately set in the Compass of a small Snuff or Patch-box : Such Works of Spirit and Strength as formerly honour'd her Pencil, are now all gone over to a neighbouring Nation, whose Eyes were not made for these Graces. Poetry, in her tragical Fury, dares not strike Terror, or move Pity ; much less suscite those daring Virtues that can save a Kingdom. She is now grown a Coquet, who catches your Eye with the Glare of her Dress, and lulls you asleep by her amorous Chit-chat ; who raves for raving-sake, and cries, to laugh the better : Elo-

quence



quence is no longer, a hurrying Torrent, but a Stream purling under Flowers ; and History, is dressed like a Romance.

Here the Admiral makes an Observation : But when doth not he ? He wrote for his own Country, thinking nothing at all of us. He supposes that the *Frivolite* Women have given the Law to all Arts ; the Men endeavour to please them, in the same Manner they themselves please, by prim affected Ways, borrowed Complexions, and fictitious Graces.

The very Sciences have aimed at new Decorations : But as yet without Success ; *Talents* will never fail to eclipse them. Colonel *Crachrode* went to hear a Funeral Oration : This Oration was on a Choirist of extraordinary Fame in his enchanting pretty Way of Music : The Orator, after firing an Artillery of Antitheses, made him a greater Man than the greatest Philosopher in the Island. The next Day, Captain *Saunders* being at a Statesman's, who had just enrich'd himself by having an *Eye* on the Prosperity of a Province : He saw there a Dancing-Master, who could scarce be prevailed upon to be so good as to communicate his *Graces* to the Heir-Apparent. They offered him some certain Price : *What do you take me for*, said the Talent-man ? *For a Master in Physics* ? Then up he quits the Room abruptly, without so much as a Bow. Another of these Talent-men comes upon the Scene ; a choice tall young Fellow, with a Whip in his Hand. " I don't see, but you may " do very well, said the Lord to him, after having " survey'd his Size and Figure. What think you of 200 Agatines ? To me 200 Agatines ? Sir, said this Coachman, To drive you in a brilliant Method,

Method, and form your Horses ! Odds-budds, given them to that *sad* Book-worm who documents your Darling.

The *Frivolites* call *sad* all that is serious, and use all possible Means to exhilarate : They allow one should read, but then it must be Books which amuse without the Labour of Thought. Modern Authors are wound up to that Key ; the Admiral could not refuse Alms to a *Fool*, who had published an excellent Book on the Duties of a *Patriot King*.

They have Courts of Justice without Number ; but observe, the Grand Tribunal hath a common Sanctuary, with the Romance-shops, and the Mode-shops. You shall see setting on the Bench among the Judges, blooming Sparks, who are not yet come to the Management of their Patrimony ; for one would be afraid they'd squander it soon on Equipages, and snug Evening Parties, call'd *Soupés fins*.

Here the Admiral brought us back to his Ships. A Month had passed, and two more were requisite to put the last Hand to the Work, especially as a Tender must be built to supply the *Anna Pink*. But how to live, and how buy the Stores for embarking ? The Agatines received out of the Treasury were near their End, and no more Ribbons had he ; 'tis true, he had reserved some Laces ; but dreaded the Grand Controller's Menaces and Influence at Court. In these Streights he was taught to set an Estimate on Talents, upon which he laid no manner of Stress when he quitted *England*. He had large Demands for Dancing-masters, and Flute-masters ; not but the Dances, and Musical-Instruments of the Country, had some Merit ; yet all what was new, and chiefly what had had a run at Court, was infinitely Superior.



Superior. He had lent a deaf Ear to all Solicitations of this Nature, wanting all his Hands to employ in the Service of his Squadron, but he thought it far more necessary to be safe, though by prolonging their Stay there.

He consequently picks out fifty Men of those who had any smattering Notion in those Talents ; and, after repeated Requests for a whole Week, he gave them up to the publick Service, and subsisting the Fleet. You must not imagine the Admiral stood his Arms across, an idle Spectator. He had for his Pupil in dancing, the Son of a General. I often observed in his House, said he, a Master for Geometry, and was indeed sorry, that though my Lessons were much shorter, my Pay was three Times more than his. Upon the Whole, the Pay of my Lessons might suffice for maintaining the Squadron ; but another Windfall serv'd to victual his Ships for the Voyage.

The Emperor grew one Day very impatient under the Hands of his Curling-Operator ; a Concert waited for him. This cross Fit alarm'd the Court ; all directly thought of Captain *Mitchel's* Peruke. His All-Elegance ask'd the Illustrious *Quick* for one : *Quick* seiz'd the happy Opportunity to restore his former Master into Favour. He told the Monarch, that what he wanted, required the Efforts of an *European* Genius ; that indeed, he himself might do for the executive Part, but that the Plan could be found in the Head of no Man, but that of the Admiral. After private Instructions from the most generous *Quick*, the Admiral was sent for : Nevertheless, before doing any thing else, he thought himself obliged to inform the Grand-Comptroller of the Modes of this, to avoid his Resentment. *The Em-*

peror demands a Wig of me, said he — *A Wig*, quoth the Crown Officer, very smartly, do you know, Sir, that among the new Things destin'd for this Nation, so soon pleased, and so soon tired with every thing, that very Wig out tops all? I reserv'd it in Petto! Then by Heavens—he was going on furiously — Put yourself in my Place, replied the Admiral gently, I must comply, or we all starve. Nothing have I left, Ribbons, Agatines, nothing: A few Laces, indeed, I have still, but you have laid an Embargo upon that poor Supply — Laces! replied the Comptroller, in a softer Tone, e'en deliver them up to me, and you may reap the Glory and Profit of your Peruke. He long had had Thoughts of introducing Laces among them, but for want of some Patterns to shew, they remained still in a State of Non-existence. The Artificers of the Island want the Spirit of Invention, and can only improve what others have invented. The Admiral clos'd in with the Proposals, and the Imperial Peruke, about a Week after, appeared on the Monarch's Head; who, without Loss of Time, founded a College of Students in that Art, to answer the earnest Demands of the smart and judicious Public, who would blush to be seen any more in their own Hair. But he could not stop here.

We have told you, that the *Frivolous Island* confines upon three great Dominions. More than once hath she been drove to put up with very hard Conditions of Peace; but nothing was ever able to shake the Power acquired over them, the Power, I say, of appointing the Forms of their whole Habits and Dresses. The Monarch dispatched three Wigs, *i. e.* Prototypes, or Patterns, to be copied by the said three Dominions; and



and the Treasure was again opened for the Use of the Admiral, who made the deepest Enquiries into the Manners of the *Frivolites*. No Nation pass them in Elegance of Manners. It is amazing, says he, that they, in so few Years, should out-strip the *French* ! I don't know but they had done better to have kept close to their Master's Instructions ; but indeed, in Point of Elegance, their lively Imagination hath no Bounds.

Do but enter into a Company with a brilliant Air, a Suit in Taste, you are received with all the Graces. The Company hanker'd after something, yourself : You now are sensible of some Perfections you never dream'd of.

The *Frivolites*, in order to grant you their Friendship, require no Virtues but Sett-offs. None question your being a Gentleman ; but you must prove your being a pretty Man. Do you want any Service from them ? Ask, and they will entreat you to command it, and this Satisfaction you shall always have, to see them distracted that they have done nothing in it. The Admiral depended upon a Patron, who had loaded him with fine Promises ; he applied to him. This is all I can possibly do for you, said this mighty Man, pulling out his Smelling-bottle ; this Bottle was full of a holy distilled Water, and consecrated at Court. All the polite World pretend to have it, principally the Nobles, and evaporate it most liberally to all about them.

The Great are not alike every-where : One is a Man who hath a crowded Levee, but stirs not himself to wish any one a Good-morrow, employs his Mornings in seeing of rich Silks and Trinkets, lays out vast Sums in Variety of large Baboons,

Baboons, multiplied by the Mirrors of the Room they are in ; who abounds in Horses and Dogs ; who often regales in a Salon most highly varnished ; who is always applauded ; this Man is called a great Man by the *Frivolites* ; he challenges the most profound Respects, whilst others must take up with bear Politeness.

This very Politeness is the Soul of the *Frivolites*. To betray a Friend, is more excusable than to falter in making a Compliment. A true polite Man hath a Hat he never puts on, flourishes out a most neat Bow Beau, and never calls his Wife, Wife : Without all this, is he friendly, sedate, complaisant, no matter, he is not polite ; to be that, you must religiously remember all the Titles. They will not only say (speaking of the Emperor) his All-Elegance open'd the Ball ; but also, his All-Elegance *sneezes*. An insolent Fellow had the Audaciousness to tell a prime Minister, *you are a Fool* ; all the Company were shock'd, that he did not say, *your shining Light is a Fool*.

With the same exact Rule do they observe all Decencies. A Place-man who robs by the Privilege of great Men, is in great Reputation ; if, before his Rise, he had taken a Purse of Agatines on the Highway, he surely had suffer'd for such Indecency. A Beauty excuses all in her rash Invader but his indelicate Expressions. A Husband dares not by any means pretend to controul the Affections of his Wife, but flies out, if her Amusements are not decent. At the Arrival of the Admiral, they were forming a Scheme, by which the inferior Part of the Sex might give up their Virtue with Decency.

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Among the *Frivolites*, as well as in *Europe*, they found Merit very high; but to get any thing by it, must be owing to unexpected Incidents. Now, it is a Point agreed on universally, that it turns more to Advantage to be Men in Vogue: These know not themselves how they came so, whether by the make of their Face, their Carriage, or their Way of laughing. Among those who succeed, this shall dress, that game, and a third hath the Neck of telling a Story. None is surprized to see a Courtier turned out of Favour who had any thing aukward in his Person.

Merit and Honour share a different Fate now-a-days; there is no doing without this absolutely, it is put to all Sauces: They don't say, I have the Pleasure, but the Honour of seeing you, speaking to you, serving you, and cringing under your Titles. They provide for Pupils, Tutors of Honour; in Tribunals, Counsellors of Honour; in Hospitals, Stewards of Honour; and all the Women in Place are at Court, Ladies of Honour. Persons of the higher Professions call their Pay from the Public *Honoraries*: But, above all, the Nobles stand up for Honour! A noble *Frivolite*, so ill fated as to prove a bad Husband, bad Father, useless Citizen, shall be sure to remember Honour, and recommend it to his Son; and the Son, after the Model of his Father, take care to keep nothing but his Word of Honour, to pay none, but Debts of Honour, and to murder, by a Point of Honour. The Women, have what they call their Honour too; it is so much a first Principle with them not to forfeit it, that they have been made the Guardians of their Husband's Honour. But however, Women of the first Rank have refused this Charge; for this  
good

good Reason, their being subject to Vapours, and Distractions.

Honour makes the Men of Metal or Warriors. 'Tis the Court supplies General-Officers; it is their proper School. A young Lord, design'd for Command, must be sure to have always the best Taylor, the most exquisite Perfumer, the most brilliant Equipage, and smartest Liveries; he indispensibly must play high, be at all Dances, all public Diversions, and must invent something or other new in the Regimentals of his Troop.

This Elegance of Manners, so generally spread among the Beau-Monde, hath reach'd their Inferiors. The Shopkeeper introduces into his Way of Trade, Manners, Palaverings, and Graces to seduce your Purse, and charm the Money out of your Pockets; the Artificer polishes his Work and himself; the domestic Servant qualifies himself much less for real, than genteel Service, this is his Study; and should he pass from riding behind the Coach into it, he becomes his Place. One must be a nice Judge of Persons, not to be mistaken between the Maid and her Mistress; the genteel Arts, Dancing, Music, Dressing, run thro' all Ranks and Degrees. A few nice Touches more, and we'll see a striking Likeness, and they will be hail-fellow well met, expect their saying, *here, my Servants, my Seat, my Estate, my Ancestors.*

The *Frivolites* have carried this Elegance of Manners into the very Bosom of Religion. (*La bonne Compagnie*) People of Taste goes sometimes to Church, but 'tis to pass away the Time; their Business there, is to bow, stare, criticize on Faces and Dress, till the very Moment the Sermon begins. The Chaplain, *Richard Walter*, says he found there Amusements and Food for Eyes and

Ears.



apours, Ears. The Instructor open'd by a Compliment  
 on the High Priest of the Capital, and fine Cringes  
 to the whole Assembly. That over, pronounced  
 a most florid Discourse on Vertues, so fine and  
 airy, that you could take no hold: They adore  
 the Sun; would fain love him, but the Manner  
 how, puzzle them. Are they bound to love him  
 because he warms and lightens them, or because  
 he is warm and luminous in himself? This Dis-  
 pute hath lasted undesid'd above a Century.  
 They have condemned Poligamy, because there  
 is but one Sun, and one Moon: But then, a Hus-  
 band is convinced that he must endeavour to  
 please more than one Woman, and it would  
 be mad Work in Wives to resent it. It is a  
 capital Tenet of theirs to damn all the other  
 Churches. Notwithstanding all that; *Richard*  
*Walter* suffer'd himself to be seiz'd with a Spirit of  
 Conversion: He undertook that of a Court Beauty,  
 who would sometimes fall into Caprices of Virtue,  
 and who by philosophical Airs, blended with the  
 Graces, gave the Law or Tone to her polite As-  
 semblies. He had two Obstacles to remove; to  
 invalidate the Divinity of the Sun, that he did;  
 and to make ten Lovers she was true to, in that  
 he succeeded too. Now you'll be happy indeed,  
 cried he! Come take off that *Zirphos*, by which  
 you are devoted to Error. This *Zirphos* was the  
 Image of the Sun, formerly a sign of Religion;  
 which the Humour of the Nation has perverted to  
 an Ornament of Gallantry. What dost thou mean?  
 Fellow! replied the Catechized, my *Zirphos*,  
 my brightest Ornament! Thou shouldst have my  
 Life first. From that Moment all was lost.

Their Conversation is as elegant as their Dress;  
 I can compare it to nothing better than their Mode  
 Shops,

Shops, for it is an Embroidery upon pretty Baubles, a Trimming of Equivocations, a Tawdry of Questions put, without expecting Answers; a Sortment of Conundrums and Quibbles, which make you laugh provisionally, and guess afterwards what made you laugh. I could not, my own self, forbear, said the Admiral, smiling at their lively and frothy pretty Ways, as their Ideas are only suffer'd to skim over Surfaces.

And as the *Frivolites* value themselves upon the Elegance of Manners; Nature, added he, hath bestow'd on them peculiar Sensations. Beauty claims its Rights all over the World; but here, in the City of Wit, it turns Peoples Brains. It is a Comet observ'd and follow'd in all its Motions, intercepted in its Course, the only Object, the only Talk.

In use at Court are small Seats, not at all convenient, yet much in request; many Matches have broke off, because the respective Lady could not pretend to the Pleasure of using them.

They love the Shew of Riches more than the Reality; and when searching their Purfes, they find nothing there to supply the Necessities of a Friend, they make it up by shewing him some Piece of Furniture in high Taste.

They never enquire after a plentiful Year, the extent of Commerce, nor ask what great Magistrates or Ministers there are; they run after new Chimney Ornaments, they are ready to die for a new Interlude.

The whole Town shall be mad with Joy and Riot upon the Account of some Victory that ruins them; and shew not the least Emotion on the passing of a good Law. They passionately love their Sovereign, admire him still more. They  
enumerate



enumerate his Guards, his Officers, his Equipages, his Palaces, the Diamonds in his Crown, but not a Word of his Actions. Should they be told of a Court wiser in its Designs, more profound in its Politicks, they'd let you go on quietly ; but who should dare to mention a more brilliant ? They would certainly challenge him. They never were heard to say they serve the State ; but they will perpetually repeat you that their Fortune, Life, their all, is at the Beck of the Emperor : And any Citizen who should very gravely assert, that it is glorious to die for one's Country, would pass for Ridiculous.

You must know their supreme delight is to discover and point out what seems Ridiculous. An Ambassador of a neighbouring Nation, one of those to whom a Model-Peruke had been sent, came to the *Frivolites* ; his Orders were to insist that they should give up a certain Branch of their Commerce, or prepare for a War. Happy it was both for him and the Nation that sent him, that he had a long Nose, and an ill-contriv'd Wig. They directly catching these two ridiculous Things talk'd much about them, titter'd more, and in this Fit of choice Glee ; he went back satisfied.

Their Sensations, are indeed, often so strong, as to disturb the public Tranquility ; of this, the Admiral was a Witness. A Minister of the Sun was accus'd of seducing, by magic, a poor Virgin. All was hush'd, but still about half the Island credited the Report, Two Parties were form'd ; One would have thought the Happiness of the Nation depended on the Virginity of the Girl, and Continency of the Minister. Some short Time after, a celebrated Actress elop'd ; all cried what's become of her ? we cannot do without her. The Men threaten'd to resign their Employments, the

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Women

Women never to see their Husbands again, till she was restor'd. After all, Revolutions are not much to be fear'd here. Some new Kick of the Mode introduc'd a-propos, a new Song, any thing will soon appease them.

Those well vers'd in the Sensations and Manners of the *Frivolites*, cannot wonder at certain Usages. One of these is on New Year-Days to shew a mighty Fondness. All are upon the Hunt, nothing but mutual Compliments and Presents. Was this Passion for new Year's Gifts quotidian, no City in the Universe would have a more flourishing Trade.

A Wife on her Wedding-Day, hangs her whole Fortune about her Neck and Ears, and the Husband sells his dirty Acres for noble Household Furniture.

You may see in their Antichambers, and behind their Coaches, the cleanest young Fellows in the Island, these magnificently ruin their Masters. While the Provinces bleed under the Loss of near 200000 Handicrafts or Plowmen ; but what could they do with them, if they should return, form'd as they are, to the Elegant Manners of the Capital.

Some of the Nobility are poor ; 'tis a Maxim they should keep so ; Trade might enrich them, but it would dishonour them.

The Bench of Judges are very numerous ; a Postulant is examined very seriously. The first Question is, what Number of Agatines he stands possess'd of ? If his Answer is right, he may be easy as to all the rest. 'Tis a receiv'd Custom to carry the same Cause thro' many Courts. Therefore must you begin young if you hope to see an End. *I heartily pitied, says the Admiral, an unfortunate Man who had carried his Cause : A Claim to a*

Field ; but the Amount of the Field fell short of

the



the Counſel's Fees. The very Writings might be laid ſo as to cover the Surface ; now it is allow'd, that a ſquare Foot of contentious Law-Writings, is of greater Price than a ſquare Foot of Land. Too often the Fortune of a private Perſon depends on the Colour of his Title-Deeds, and muſt be bad, if not tranſcribed on lilly-white Paper.

Religion hath more Miniſters than the *Royal Exchange* of *London* hath Merchants, moſt of them young, not to daunt the Profane, who apply for Inſtructions in Wiſdom : Their own Wiſdom is confin'd within certain determin'd Boundaries. Be they but faithful and ſteady to Forms, and to the Cut of their Hair, let them ſing Hymns to the Sun at ſtated Times ; and principally ever proteſt that a beautiful Woman is not lovely, they may ſafely follow their Notions in all other Things.

Some among them are ſurrounded with the Splendor of Riches, they deſpiſe them ; but dread the Contempts of the whole Nation, if they ſhould neglect to adorn their Talents with them. There are above 2000 Temples, proud of their Altars and ſmaller Ornaments. You may often ſee the Altar erected to the Sun abandon'd, when, at the ſame Time, thoſe of the Planets, and Conſtellations are crowded with Worſhippers.

It is a pity the Admiral had not more idle Time to ſpend in the Iſland ; we might have had an accurate Diſſection of this matchleſs People. The Works aboard the Squadron drew to an End, his Ships were repar'd, the Store Ship built, and, the Proviſions for the Fleet laid in. Nothing was now wanting but a fair Wind to ſet ſail, and indeed it was Time. For during this long and perilous Voyage, he had ſtudied nothing but how to raiſe the Spirit of his Squadron, by the Sounds of my *Country*,

*Liberty, English Greatness, Immortality*, which always frisking their Ears, had reach'd to their very Hearts. Not one Soldier or Sailor but dream'd the House of Commons surrounded, and the Eyes of all *England* were upon, him.

That was the Situation of those Souls when they enter'd the Island; but their Trade with a Nation so gay and flashy; and perhaps also the Food, which try'd their Constitutions, had much alter'd them. They had no more any Thoughts of seeking new Dangers or Enemies, of living hard, or despising their Lives; they began to laugh with the *Frivolites* at all those masculine Virtues, which found, increase and perpetuate all Free-States. The Admiral was too well appriz'd of this, and hurry'd on the Embarkation. He took his Audience of Leave. The Emperor consented to his Departure, but, upon one Condition; That he should leave four Men behind, such as his All-Elegance pleas'd to name.

The Admiral trembled at that; but he had no need; but we are always afraid to lose what we prize most: He apprehended the Choice would fall upon his Captains or Pilots. His Apprehensions soon vanished; the Elect were the three Curlers, who were warm Sticklers much for the Honour of the Peruke and Curls of all Kinds; the fourth a Soldier, a great Mechanic, who bid fair for Immortality by an admiral Invention a *Summer-Equipage*, in whose Bowels imperceptible Bellows ever breathed refreshing Zephyrs.

All this while no favourable Wind would blow; and waiting for it, the idle Crew strolled all about the Suburbs; some Sailors straggling along a Ledge of Mountains quite scorched up; not a Tree, not a Blade of Grass, but was interspersed with Stones cristalized, and with Marcassites with gold Veins.



Veins. The Admiral having Notice of that, came to the very Spot with his Adepts in Mines : There, did he examine the Beginning, the End and Qualities of these Marcaffiles ; he ordered them to dig in different Places, observed the exact Situation of the Place, and then returned to his Ships. Joy filled every Heart, every Imagination was groping to the Bottom of these Mines ; there they found immense Treasures, and calculated the Length of Time necessary to extract them. Their Stay in this delicious Island must unavoidably be made longer, nor did they know, if they should or could leave it ; if it should be quitted, they might depart loaded with Riches, which the Islanders would not dispute them, not knowing the Value of such Things. This was not the Admiral's Way of Thinking ; he bid them be silent as to the Mine ; and that Moment made them all swear they'd not reveal ( giving strict Orders none should go ashore ) what they knew of the *Frivolous Island*. Never had our Jack Tars a stronger and livelier Impression of the Delights of the Island. Their Consternation became general, not even in the Horrors of a Storm ever so dismal : Nay, then, for the first Time, were Complaints and Murmurs heard : But the Admiral, besides the Force of Command, was blest'd with that Authority which great Virtues stamp on Men, and flatter'd himself, that as soon as he got to Sea, he should find his effeminated Men recover their pristine Manhood and Vigour. The next Day a fresh Wind blew from the West.

He set sail to go and take *Payta*, a Town in *Peru*, where the *Spaniards* thought themselves secure. One may read in his Voyages his other Expeditions not appertaining to my Subject.

Now

Now I must beg Leave to make some hasty Reflections ; a Fit of Freedom takes me ; this must naturally happen in speaking of the *English* Spirit. Admiral *Anson* discovers, in a fine Climate, a Nation easily subduable ; besides some Gold Mines. All sworn to Secrecy, he makes a State Secret of the Thing : But should not he think of making it some Time or other a Conquest ? Why may not we ourselves attempt it ? How can we give up for ever the Trouble of Discovery and Conquest to maritime Powers ? Are not we as much maritime as they, reaching the *Mediterranean* with one Hand, and the Ocean with the other ? Let us prevent the *English*, or if Justice forbid Invasions, we may at least settle a lawful and advantageous Commerce with the *Friivolous Island* ? The Admiral grants you, that she hath hitherto kept out of her Luxury, the Taste that reigns at *London* ; but then doth this same *London*-Taste dare vie with the bewitching Charms of *Paris* ? What Eagerness would not the *Friivolites* express at the Sight of our *Paintings of the Goblins*, our *Varnishes by Martin*, our *enamel'd Trinkets*, our *damasqued Swords*, our *Stuffs from Lyons* ; and, at that World of Adjustments which distinguish our Men, and stamp a Value on our Women ; are we not the only true Fabricators and Providers in all *Europe* ? How do we know that our *Romances*, our *Comedies* and *Operas*, which so successfully and abundantly multiply, may not strike out another Branch of Trade ? After all, let us endeavour to make both Sexes easy. We should only indeed export to these *Americans* the Superfluities of our Superfluity, and bring back in return their Gold, which they may very well go without.



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